

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1754

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 9874

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, MILL, CI  
SUBJECT: NAVY TRIALS: APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 2134

1. A CHILEAN NAVY APPEALS COURT HAS REVIEWED AND SUSTAINED THE CONVICTION OF 56 SAILORS ARRESTED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEFORE THE 1973 COUP, ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY TO MUTINY. SINCE 46 OF THEM WERE SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND HAVE ALREADY SERVED THEIR TIME, THEY WILL BE RELEASED. IN A RELATED ACTION, THE COURT LEFT OPEN THE CASE AGAINST SOCIALIST EX-SENATOR CARLOS ALTAMIRANO AND ALLENDE GOVERNMENT MINISTER OSCAR GARRETON (MAPU), WHO ALLEGEDLY FOMENTED THE CONSPIRACY. TEN OTHER CONSPIRATORS AMONG THE SAILORS RECEIVED 8-13 YEAR SENTENCES. ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR PAROLE INTO THE U.S.; HE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO SEEK COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE. THERE MAY BE OTHER POTENTIAL PAROLEES AMONG THOSE TO BE RELEASED; THEIR NAMES WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC.

2. ALTAMIRANO AND GARRETON FLED FROM CHILE AFTER THE COUP. THE NAVY ALLEGES THAT THEY CONSPIRED FROM 1972 TO MID-1973 TO PERSUADE A GROUP OF ENLISTED MEN TO MUTINY AND SHELL VALPARAISO. MOST OF THE ARRESTS WERE MADE IN THE TENSE WEEKS PRECEDING THE SEPTEMBER 11 COUP. A NAVY JUDGE PASSED  
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SENTENCE IN FEBRUARY 1975 (REF) AND REVIEW BY A NAVY

"CORTE MARCIAL," WHICH INCLUDES CIVILIAN JUDGES, OCCURRED  
AUTOMATICALLY.

3. COMMENT: THESE CASES ARE NOT RELATED TO THE NAVY'S  
APPARENTLY ABORTED ATTEMPT TO TRY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY, LUIS CORVALAN. PRESUMABLY THE NAVY  
PROCEEDED WITH THE APPEALS COURT VERDICT AT THIS TIME TO  
TIDY UP THE CASE, SINCE MOST OF TYCSE CONVICTED HAD SERVED  
OUT THEIR SENTNNCES.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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